

**Statewide Independent Living Council
(SILC) MINUTES
October 24th, 2013
AmericInn, Ft. Pierre**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Margot Burton, Dave Miller, Isabel Trobaugh, Patrick Czerny, Steve Stewart, Sarah Rush, Bernie Grimme, Sandy Neyhart, Tammy Kabris, Matt Cain, Lyle Cook, Shelly Schock, Monte Tschetter, Vona Johnson, Kathleen McOwen and Clarke Christianson. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Gaye Mattke, DSBVI; Eric Weiss, DRS; Ronda Williams, DRS; Janet Ball, DRS; Sherrie Peterson, Good Samaritan Society; Patty Kuglitsch, SD Association of the Deaf; Tom Kober, CSD; Ann Van Loan, WRDI; Francine McOwen; Shelly Pfaff, SILC Staff; Julie Paluch and David Thomson, Interpreters.

OPENING ACTIONS: WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Margot, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:35, welcomed everyone and invited members and guests to introduce themselves. **Meeting Protocol** – Margot referred to the meeting protocol and reminded all to follow it throughout the meeting. **Approval of Agenda** – Margot confirmed members had copies and called for changes or additions. Margot asked to add a report on the Catch the Wave event in Eagle Butte under 'Other Business'. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED – MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – After confirming everyone received and reviewed a copy of the July 30th minutes; Margot called for changes/additions. Clarke pointed out that Larry Puthoff was included as a member in attendance, and he was no longer on the SILC. This amendment was noted. Hearing no other changes, **MOTION TO APPROVE THE JULY 30TH, 2013 MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED – MSC.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Margot called for any public comments. Bernie took a moment to recognize Lyle's recent recognition as the recipient of the 2013 Governor's Award for Distinguished Service at the recent ceremony. The board recognized Lyle with their applause.

At this time Margot invited Eric Weiss, Director of the Division of Rehabilitation Services to take a few moments to address the SILC. Eric shared that he started working with DRS in 2000 and then became the Assistant Director of the Division

of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired in 2003. He is looking forward to this new role, and the opportunity to work with the SILC. He is married and has two girls. Margot then invited Ronda William, Independent Living Program Specialist of DRS to take a few moments to address the SILC. Ronda shared that she was a VR counselor for about three years. After that she became a program specialist with DRS for the past 10 years, working with the VR program. Recently she accepted the IL program specialist position. She, too, indicated her excitement about working with the SILC and CILs.

WORKGROUP REPORTS: Based on the new SPIL, four workgroups have been established to carry out various SILC activities.

CONSUMER SERVICES WORKGROUP: Margot provided this report. Members are Bernie, Sarah, Shelly and Margot. They met on 9/20/13 via conference call. Their initial work is to gather information from various sources in order to – explore what other states do in terms of establishing ‘core competencies’ for independent living specialists; ask CILs what qualifications they seek when hiring independent living specialists; contact national resources i.e., ILRU, APRIL, NCIL to see if they have done any work in this area; and ask CILs what they do to provide training to their staff. Margot is working with SILC staff to pursue soliciting this information. Thus far they have not found any work having been done at a national or regional level on core competencies. This workgroup also feels the current CIL Director’s Report needs to be revised due to the new SPIL. Bernie has offered to ‘draft’ revisions to this document and the workgroup will continue work on it.

HOUSING WORKGROUP: Matt provided this report. Members are Kathleen, Annette, Vona and Matt. They met on 9/27/13 via conference call. Only two members were able to participate. At that time they reviewed the SPIL’s specific goals and activities addressing housing needs of persons with significant disabilities. There was conversation about increasing numbers of people having ‘no’ income and the impact on homeless shelter options and programs such as NeighborWorks and Rural Development. Shelly, SILC staff, was asked to contact Vona and see what they can come up with in relation to ‘identifying chief barriers to safe, affordable, accessible housing for individuals with significant disabilities in South Dakota’. It was also asked, if possible, future workgroup meetings be held on Tuesdays or Thursdays to accommodate Katie’s weekly commitments.

PUBLIC AWARENESS WORKGROUP: Sandy provided this report. Members are Lyle, Tammy, Isabel and Sandy. They met on 9/23/13 via conference call. They reviewed their portions of the SPIL goals, activities and timelines. They discussed current information on community groups previously identified as working cooperatively with CILS and ways to expand this list. Various workgroup members agreed to make contact within their specific arenas to seek further information on valuable community resources that might benefit people with significant disabilities. They also spoke about the importance of confidentiality when groups assist people – ensuring that in telling the stories of how they have helped others – they have ensured that the people are willing to be identified in those stories.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY WORKGROUP: Dave provided this report. Members are Clarke, Pat, Steve, Monte and Dave. They met on 9/20/13 via conference call. They, too, reviewed the portions of the SPIL addressing AT. Their initial focus will be fact-finding relating to (1) what is available; (2) what are the barriers; (3) what lies ahead for people who are deaf/hard of hearing; people who are blind/visually impaired; people with mental health disabilities; people with intellectual disabilities; youth with disabilities/special education; people who are older; and people with physical disabilities. They are proposing have presentations at the next three SILC meetings on these various topics starting with a focus on AT and elders and AT and people who are deaf/hard of hearing at this meeting. The workgroup worked on a letter of invitation for presenters, and it will be used for all presenters. Pat was asked to act as a conduit between the workgroup and the AT Project – DakotaLink- advisory committee so that both groups are aware of what the other is doing and duplication of efforts and strengthening of outcomes of all efforts might result.

AT AND ELDERS – LIVINGWELL@HOME PROJECT: Sherrie Petersen of the Good Saramitan Society, Director of the LivingWell@Home Project, presented at this time. She started by providing a history of the project, moved into the project goals – changing the way people live and age – shifting the focus to wellness and preventative interventions versus current health care system of reactive interventions by using technology to help those served to maximize their well-being, engage in managing their own health, improve their care and improve their outcomes at a lower cost. The presentation included an explanation of the types of technology utilized, the monitoring process and staffing, barriers to these services being readily available to all, and what they've learned thus far in terms of cost savings (see attachment for all slides).

Considerable dialogue followed the presentation, and Sherrie left her business cards with staff for distribution to those wanting them. Margot thanked Sherrie for her presentation.

A break was taken at this time. The meeting reconvened at approximately 10:45 a.m.

AT AND PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF/HARD OF HEARING: DRS/TRS RELAY SERVICES – EDP/TAD PROGRAMS – Janet Ball provided this presentation. She began with an overview of the TRS program, speaking of the traditional relay service and how TRS has evolved over the years. Janet then moved into an overview of the EDP program including eligibility, types of equipment provided and how that program has evolved. Next, she addressed the TAD program, including eligibility, types of equipment provided and its evolution over the years. Janet then addressed the newest of these services/programs – the NDBEDP program – National Deaf/Blind Equipment Distribution Program – it’s origin and current status. Her presentation then focused on barriers to people accessing these programs and services (see attached for actual slides presented). Two specific questions were raised – both resulting in consensus that further exploration of current policy and practice needs to be reviewed in relation to them. The first was in regard to the EDP program eligibility requirement that a person must have a landline phone service, yet one of the items provided is cell phone amplifiers. This led to further conversation about the landline requirement when more and more people are moving to cellphone only. The second area was in regard to the TAD program where it states that “TAD devices are not provided to individuals who are blind or visually impaired”. The question was raised why not this specific disability group? DRS staff agreed that they need to revisit these policies/practices and determine if they are still appropriate. Margot thanked Janet for her presentation.

SDAD – CONSUMER PERSPECTIVE ON AT FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING: Patty Kuglitsch from SD Association of the Deaf provided this presentation. She shared that technology and connectivity avenues such as broadband access/high speed internet, ipads/laptops/tablets, mobile phones, CapTel Phones/Amplified Phones; Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TTY), Captioning Services, Video Remote Interpreting, Video Relay Services and Telecommunications Relay Services all provide people who are deaf/hard of hearing with communication access. A person’s age and comfort level with various available technologies often drives which type of technology and service they choose. Consequently,

even though some technology is older and may seem outdated, for some people these forms still are their communication modes of choice. Patty then spoke to the chief barriers to people accessing available technologies. She pointed to two key barriers – economic (cost of technology and connectivity) and access to broadband/high speed internet services (see attachment for further information). Margot thanked Patty for her presentation.

Due to the time and lunch being ready, Margot asked Tom if he would be willing to delay his presentation until after lunch. Tom agreed that this would work for him. So the SILC broke for lunch, and guests were invited to stay and join them so all might have an opportunity to visit further during this break.

The meeting was called back to order at approximately 12:45 p.m.

CSD – PROVIDER PERSPECTIVE ON AT FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING: Tom Kober, Director of Operations, CSD Human Services, provided this presentation. As a former SILC member Tom expressed his joy in seeing so many familiar faces. Tom started his presentation by sharing some statistics on the number of Americans with some degree of hearing loss, as well as how the prevalence of hearing loss changes with age. He also shared numbers of South Dakotans with hearing loss and number of students in SD who are either deaf/hard of hearing and have been mainstreamed in SD. Tom then spoke to CSD's objectives in serving and advocating on behalf of people who are deaf/hard of hearing. He spoke to available technology, chief barriers to accessing available technology and possible solutions to addressing those barriers. Tom also spoke to CSD's willingness to work with the State and others to address the needs of people who are deaf/hard of hearing. He concluded by inviting people to learn more about CSD, if they were not familiar with their programs and services (see attached for slides shared by Tom). Margot thanked Tom for his presentation.

Examples of additional information requested were: # of units/persons served, volume of service, cost, etc. of the TRS, EDP, TAD programs; additional conversation on the human factor of AT – if people aren't comfortable with the available AT, they won't use it; how do we address that piece of the puzzle; how do we address the training needs of people who go out and buy something privately, and yet without training don't know how to most effectively use the technology?

DRS REPORT: Bernie Grimme provided this report. BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION – Their last meeting was 9/12 & 13 in Mitchell. Updates were given on the DHS Strategic Plan Rollout, VR Offices and Employment Works – Governor’s Taskforce. A presentation was given on the Promise Grant – a federal research initiative to develop improved outcomes for youth 14-16 on SSI. The meeting also included a presentation on VR and Provider relationships, time on the State Plan, individual & organizational strategic applications for funding, SILC & State Workforce Development Council reports, election of officers, and scheduling of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Board of SBVI. It will be held in Pierre on December 6th. IL SERVICES REPORT – Bernie reported that in the future Ronda Williams will be doing this report, but during this transition time all DRS staff are carrying different parts of the workload until people become familiar with their new roles and responsibilities. Prior to the meeting Bernie had sent out the IL Services Report – June to Sept 2013 and the Quarterly Ramp Report. Bernie reviewed both of these reports with the SILC, and responded to resulting questions. A third report Bernie provided was the Consumer Satisfaction Survey from June – Aug 2013. This report was designed by a SILC workgroup. It was agreed that this report might need some adjustment as more data becomes available, and the SILC determines what is most helpful to them in carrying out their responsibilities under the Act and SPIL.

DSBVI REPORT: Sandy Neyhart provided this report. BOARD OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED – Their last meeting was September 27th in Sioux Falls and was originally planned to be in conjunction with the annual SD Association of the Blind Convention. The Board was pleased with their 2013 public meetings held via DDN and the Disability Summit held in Mobridge. They will determine annually whether or not to hold one in conjunction with an annual convention of a consumer organization. While in Sioux Falls, the board toured the SD Braille Production Unit at the SD Penitentiary, and SBVI received a plaque from Pheasantland Industries for their contribution in support of them getting a braille printer. Other topics at their meeting were: announcement of the assistant director position; the re-allotment of \$75,000 in federal funds to SD; an update on the Deaf/Blind EDP and announcement of their next board meeting in December in conjunction with the BVR. IL OLDER BLIND REPORT – Sandy reported that they have two “hybrid” employees who serve both VR and IL Older Blind program participants. Both of these positions have experienced recent turnover – one position in Pierre and one in Rapid City. Plans are underway to use existing staff to cover the current caseload and open up these positions for

hiring. She reported they believe the program will serve a bit under last year's number of 500 individuals; rehabilitation teachers continue to remain very busy in spite of the numbers served expected to be slightly lower than last year. The Closed Circuit TV program purchased eight new models. Roughly 30% of the inventory consists of newer machines. Memorial funds were used to purchase the eight new units. The percentage of patrons paying vs. not paying for the service is close to 50-50.

SILC STAFF REPORT: Shelly Pfaff provided this report. FY14 YTD BUDGET REPORT – This was sent out earlier to SILC members. No questions were asked at this time. STRATEGIC PLANNING FUND REQUEST – This information was sent out earlier for the SILC's review and consideration. The WRDI request was for support of purchasing new computer hardware and related services. It was in the amount of \$2,000. Margot asked SILC members what they would like to do in response to this request. Questions were asked about the scope of the project; how many staff are IL; this seeming to be a business expense and not appropriate for this type of request. Again, Margot asked if the SILC wished to take any action. Hearing none – Margot asked Shelly to move on to the next item under her report. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE – Shelly reported the SILC had received a renewal notice from the COALITION, and it had been sent out earlier to all members. Margot asked what the SILC wishes were on this matter. Dave declared a conflict of interest, as he serves on the COALITION Board of Directors. A question was asked what the SILC had done in the past. Staff indicated they had paid an organizational membership and made a \$65 donation for a total of \$100. **MOTION TO PAY \$100 TO THE COALITION TO RENEW THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AT \$35 AND MAKE A \$65 DONATION – MSC.**

CIL REPORTS: INDEPENDENT LIVING CHOICES – Matt referred to the report sent out earlier. He highlighted items relating to the total number of consumers served during the year; peer support visitors and groups, and staff turnover in their Aberdeen office due to the staff person's spouse being offered a position in the Black Hills. NATIVE AMERICAN ADVOCACY PROJECT – Shelly shared that she had received a written report from Marla, which was emailed out earlier this week. She passed out copies to those who had not seen the earlier email, and time was provided for members to briefly review it. WESTERN RESOURCES FOR DISABLED INDEPENDENCE – Ann referred to the written report sent out earlier. She highlighted their provision of adult day services in both Rapid City and Spearfish, hiring of new staff in Pierre – Kathy Bader, a former staff member of DRS, and spoke to how Federal Home Loan Monies have been used to meet

some needs of American Indians needing home modifications. Some conversation followed on meeting the needs of American Indians with significant disabilities and the relationship between NAAP and the other two CILs. After some conversation, consensus was that this situation needs to be explored further, and the DSU will take a lead in beginning that exploration.

OTHER BUSINESS: DISABILITY POLICY SUMMIT – Margot provided a summary of the summit, sharing that about 15 different disability related organizations were present. Dave facilitated the meeting, and no definite positions were taken – rather there was conversation about a variety of topics that each organization identified as priorities for themselves, some of which they share in common. The DAN will meet during legislative session every other week via DDN. There will also be some communication following the Governor’s Budget Address on December 3rd. CATCH THE WAVE – Margot invited Lyle to share some word about the Eagle Butte Catch the Wave event. He thanked the boards and council for their support. There were 73 students who participated and seven schools represented. A wide variety of agencies and organizations were present to share information on their services and programs. There were also 37 adults participating in support of the students attending the event.

CLOSING ACTIONS: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Margot asked for future agenda items. Dave indicated that the AT Workgroup will be inviting presenters on AT and people who are blind/visually impaired and AT and students with disabilities/special education. DakotaLink has been initially identified as a resource on AT and students with disabilities/special education. SBVI will be a starting point for AT and people who are blind/visually impaired. Hearing no other topics at this time, Margot invited other SILC members to submit other possible agenda items to her or staff. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING – After consulting the calendar, the first choice for the next meeting is all day on January 17th, coming in on the 16th, in Pierre. The second choice is all day on January 24th, coming in on the 23rd. Staff will work on securing a location for the meeting and sleeping rooms, and they will be in touch once arrangements have been completed. ADJOURNMENT – THANK YOU – Margot thanked everyone for being in attendance and for a very productive meeting. She asked for a motion to adjourn. **MOTION TO ADJOURN – MS.** Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.